

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 50 of 1901.]

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 14th December 1901.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)— <i>Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—</i>	
Nil.		A railway grievance ... 644	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Ditto ... ib.	
(a)— <i>Police—</i>		A Sub-Post Office for Panjia, Jessore ... ib.	
A menace to public morality ...	641	(h)— <i>General—</i>	
Constables of the Assam Police to repair their own cooksheds ...	ib.	The transfer of the Govindpur subdivision ... 644	
(b)— <i>Working of the Courts—</i>		Ditto ditto ... 645	
The case of Mr. Lyall of Assam ...	641	The case of Sib Narayan Banerji of the Legislative Department ... ib.	
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	Lord Northcote's Kathiawar tour ... ib.	
An appeal to the Chief Justice ...	ib.	The Superintendent of the Garo Hills ... ib.	
A murder case of the Tippera district ...	ib.	Indians in the Survey of India Department ... ib.	
A case in Kushtea, Nadia ...	642	Official residences ... 646	
The case of Mohini Chandra Das and others, Backergunge ...	ib.	An appeal on behalf of the Sonthal Parganas ... ib.	
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	The Lyall case and the European community ... ib.	
(c)— <i>Jails—</i>		III.—LEGISLATION.	
Nil.		The Madras Court-of-Ward's Bill ... 646	
(d)— <i>Education—</i>		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The new educational rules in the North-Western Provinces ...	642	Indian Princes ... 646	
(e)— <i>Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government—</i>		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The new building regulations ...	643	The agricultural prospects in Behar ... 647	
The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Corporation ...	ib.	Ditto ditto ... ib.	
(f)— <i>Questions affecting the Land—</i>		The threatened distress in Behar, and the general outlook in Bengal ... ib.	
"Dharma golas" ...	643	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Indian agriculture ...	ib.	Lord Curzon and the Buddhists of Rangoon ... 647	
Agriculture and the Congress ...	644	Emigration for middle class Indians ... 648	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2737. The *Bengalee* complains of the existence of brothels tenanted by women of ill-fame in the vicinity of the Tejnarain College at Bhagalpur, and thinks that the Mufassal Police Act should be amended upon the lines of the Calcutta Police Act, so as to make it legal for the mufassal police to deal with such matters.

BENGALEE,
10th Dec. 1901.

2738. The same paper is surprised to learn that the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, has issued orders that cooksheds used by the Civil Police of Assam are to be kept in repair by the constables themselves. It adds:—

BENGALEE,
10th Dec. 1901.

“It is certainly a grievance that constables should be asked to repair their cooksheds. That forms no part of their legitimate duties, and should properly belong to the Public Works Department. Besides, the order is bound to prove a positive grievance to those constables who are Brahmans and are never accustomed to the kind of work demanded from them. They will feel it a degradation, repugnant to their religious feelings. We hope the matter will receive the serious attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner, who, we are quite sure, will order the early recall of the Circular.”

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2739. The power conferred on Government to appeal against acquittals and to move the High Court for enhancement of sentence affects, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the European prisoner more than the Indian, as in the case of Mr. Lyall of Assam, who, though unanimously acquitted by the jury, now finds himself in jail.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Dec. 1901.

Although guilty of rioting and grievous hurt, the punishment provided for which aggregates nine years, Mr. Lyall was sentenced to only one month's simple imprisonment, and provided with “a proper place” in the Alipore Jail. The *Patrika* asks why vicarious punishment is not permitted in the case of European prisoners. Mr. Lyall could then have sent a cooly of his to work out his sentence. “Of course it would not be strictly just to send a cooly to jail for the offence of Mr. Lyall, but then where is the help? There is no accommodation for European prisoners in Assam jails! And then it is not always expedient to be just when European offenders are concerned.”

INDIAN EMPIRE,
10th Dec. 1901.

2740. The *Indian Empire* observes that the sentence passed on Mr. Lyall, the Assam planter, is of course too lenient in comparison with what was passed in another case on some coolies who for rioting and causing slight hurt to a Manager's syce and others, were sent to long terms of rigorous imprisonment. It, however, hopes that the sentence passed on Mr. Lyall will have a deterrent effect, and help's coolies will be saved from oppression.

It draws attention to the practice of confinement in tea-gardens which was referred to in the Lyall case in the High Court judgment, which recalls the worst days of the Carline slaves, and proves the truth of the late Kristo Das Pal's opinion that the Cooly Act was the Slave Act.

BENGALEE,
10th Dec. 1901.

2741. According to the list of holidays prepared by the High Court all Civil Courts in Bengal remain closed for the Christmas and the New Year's holidays from the 24th December 1901 to the 1st January 1902. The other Government offices remain closed, however, from 22nd December to 1st January. The *Bengalee* prays, on behalf of the pleaders and amlahs of the Civil Courts, that His Lordship the Chief Justice will be pleased to see his way to vary his previous order and allow the Civil Courts, like other Government offices, to enjoy the holidays from the 22nd instant.

2742. The following paragraph is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—
A murder case of the Tippera district. Bhagavan Kaiberta, of Tippera, killed his wife because she persisted in leading an immoral life. Indeed the man made a clean breast of it to the Magistrate. The Sessions

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Dec. 1901.

Judge sentenced the man to transportation for life, and the High Court summarily rejected his appeal. We can cite cases to show that under similar circumstances the accused have been honourably acquitted in America and France. A greater provocation cannot be conceived than what the wife of Bhagavan gave him. Judges when they inflict a sentence ought to place themselves in the position of the accused before them. If they do it, then they will be able to ascertain the punishment that ought to be inflicted. A man who knows that he has a faithless wife becomes insane or partially insane. This is the general rule. What a noble ruler Sir Richard Temple was! Nobin killed his wife Elokeshi because of her liaison with the Mahunt of Tarakeswar. The Judges sent him to the Andamans for life, but Sir Richard Temple pardoned him. A man whose wife has disgraced him and made his whole life miserable is very much to be pitied if he loses control over his mind and takes the law in his own hand. It is a pity that the Judges who inflict such severe sentences in such cases have virtuous wives.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Dec. 1901.

2743. Referring to the case of Shamsuddin, who was committed to *hajut* by the Joint-Magistrate of Kushtea, Nadia, without any evidence having been recorded against him, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—Possibly this Joint-Magistrate will in time develop into a distinguished statesman. But the mischief is, these young rulers are trained at the cost of the people. Soldiers are trained to hit the bull's-eye and to fight by means of sham battles. That is one thing. But the young Magistrates have to learn by dealing with human creatures.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2744. While expressing satisfaction at Justices Prinsep and Stephen rejecting the application of Mohini Chandra Das and others, for the transfer of a case against them from Barisal, showing that their Lordships have a high opinion of the independence of Deputy Magistrates, who are generally natives, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to a letter of a correspondent of the *Hindu* at Karnool, which illustrates the fact that no Deputy Magistrate can afford to offend the District Magistrate without injuring his future prospects. This makes it difficult for them to act with independence.

A feature of the Backergunge case is the gravity of the allegation made on oath against Mr. Weston, the District Magistrate.

He is alleged to have utilized the full force of his official position for the purpose of coercing a helpless widow to do a disagreeable act to serve the interests of some private European gentlemen. She was even threatened with being arrested unless Mr. Weston's order was obeyed.

Mr. Weston should in his own interest as well as that of justice be called upon by Government to clear his character by bringing a case against his maligner.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2745. The same paper enters into more elaborate consideration of the foregoing case. By refusing the transfer applied for, the High Court has placed both the Magistrate and the Deputy Magistrate in a false position. If the Deputy Magistrate now goes against the accused, how are the public to be persuaded that the latter's petition for transfer had nothing to do with the hostile attitude of the Magistrate?

Following the principle that applies to an accused of peremptorily challenging jurymen, an accused person, says the *Patrika*, ought to be given the privilege of challenging a court, and such prayers for transfer of cases ought to be granted as a rule.

It cannot believe that Mr. Weston is capable of such unchivalrous conduct as that alleged against him, and it repeats that the Government should give him an opportunity to clear his conduct by instituting a case against his maligner.

(d)—Education.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Dec. 1901.

2746. The *Indian Mirror* notes the recent educational changes which have been introduced by the North-Western Provinces Government, and is of opinion that the new Matriculation Examination will necessitate the imposition of a severer tax on, and will seriously hamper the education of, youths in the United Provinces.

The *Mirror* next notices the refusal of the authorities to recognise Bengali as a legitimate subject of study in any aided or recognised school, and points out the hardship which this rule will inflict on the very large number of Bengali youths residing in the North-Western Provinces. To counteract the injury it is recommended that such Bengalis should open out schools independent of Government aid or interference, as has been done in Benares.

It equally deplores the exclusion of English from the lower classes. In view of the raising of the educational standard and the stiffening of the matriculation course, it would have been reasonable if the authorities gave every facility for the study of and improvement in English.

(e)—*Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.*

The new Building Regulations.

2747. The following paragraph appears in the

Amrita Bazar Patrika:—

"When the new Building Regulations of the Calcutta Corporation were passed we said that it would be henceforth almost impossible for the citizens of Calcutta to construct new buildings in the city. Elsewhere is published the case of Babu Charu Chandra Ghosh, from which it will appear that, although he applied for permission for the construction of certain buildings in July, the matter yet remains undecided. Not that Babu Charu Chandra has broken any provision of the new Municipal Act that he is being punished in this way. On the other hand, it is the Municipal men who are wholly in the wrong. As a last resource, Babu Charu Chandra has submitted his case before the General Committee of the Corporation, and we have now to see how long it takes that august body to dispose of it."

2748. The *Hindoo Patriot* hears that the Hon'ble Mr. Buckley is likely

The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Corporation.

to succeed Mr. Greer as Chairman of the Municipal Corporation. It does not approve of the appointment on the ground that Mr. Buckley is on the eve

of retirement. It would prefer the post being filled from the ranks of the Indian Civil Service, whose members possess higher administrative ability than those of the Engineering and Medical services. It recommends the appointment of a civilian of 20 years' standing, who would not be more than 45 years of age, and such an officer should be required to complete seven years' service in the appointment before being changed. If it is not found possible to appoint a civilian, the *Patriot* asks the Government to consider the advisability of appointing a non-official, European or native, many of whom are fitted for the appointment.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

2749. The *Indian Mirror* notices the pamphlet on co-operative corn banks

"Dharma Golas."

or "Dharma Golas," published by Rai Parvati Sankara Chaudhri, Honorary Secretary to the

Indian Industrial Association, and remarks that if the system proposed by the writer does not prove a panacea in time of famine, it will doubtless reduce distress to a sensible extent. The experiment deserves consideration.

2750. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* objects to the hopeful and complaisant

Indian Agriculture.

tone adopted by Mr. R. C. Dutt in his recent lecture on Indian Agriculture, and holds that agriculture

is in a sad plight just now, and that improvement is required in various directions.

Owing to the land being overtaxed it is absolutely necessary to resort to manure and new agricultural implements. The *Patrika* summarises the needs of the agriculturist in the following paragraph:—

"From the above it would appear that it has become now essential to import agricultural implements from the West, which practically means America. We have already seen that the Russians are converting arid tracts into fruitful gardens by importing agricultural implements from America. Thus we need better ploughs and stronger bullock to work them. We need agricultural implements as invented in America, some of which have proved eminently successful. We need agricultural institutions studded all over the

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Dec. 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th Dec. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Dec. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Dec. 1901.

country. In short, we need the earnest attention of the Government to this all important subject."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Dec. 1901.

2751. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* compares the condition of agriculture

Agriculture and the Congress.

in this country and in Holland, Belgium and America, and finds that much remains to be done by the Government of India towards improving that condition. It deplors the absence of agricultural chemists who are doing such useful work in Holland and Belgium in analysing soil, seed-grains, fodder and manure, and points out that, although the Government here takes infinite pains to prevent a poisoner escaping the gallows, and has a number of scientists who are able to detect and identify poison in the stomach of a man dying under suspicious circumstances, it does not trouble itself in the least to deal with another kind of poisoner, more dangerous to humanity than the human poisoner, namely, the *sheko poka* or paddy pest, and such other noxious insects, which cause such destruction to the crops.

The journal believes that by improving this state of things, it would be possible for India to export more rice and wheat than it does now; breed mules, horses, cattle and sheep, and export them; revive the silk industry and cure tobacco; but it needs a Government which will understand its true interests. It appeals to the Congress to not only take up the subject, but give it a foremost place in its programme.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

BENGAL, 11th Dec. 1901.

2752. A correspondent of the *Bengalee* appeals to the Traffic Superintendent of the Bengal-Central Railway to restore the steamer service in connection with the Bengal-

A railway grievance.

Central trains, and to resume through-booking to Kotchandpur station, as passengers to Calcutta or other places are seriously inconvenienced, and have either to travel in bullock-carts all the way to Shibnibash over exceedingly difficult roads, or depend upon Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Company to convey them to Tarpur, up to which the steamer now runs. As the through connection with Kotchandpur and its neighbourhood has never been a losing venture, the correspondent is at a loss to understand why this course has been adopted by the Railway authorities, and hopes that the old order of things will be allowed to continue.

BEHAR HERALD,
11th Dec. 1901.

2753. The *Behar Herald* writes that the Mokameh-Buxar local mixed train, which formerly used to leave Bankipore at about 8 or 9-30 and reached Barh at about 11

Ibid.

o'clock, was a convenient train for litigants and lawyers proceeding to Barh. Now, however, the train reaches Barh after midday and causes great inconvenience to people bound for the Court. The *Herald* hopes the authorities will study the convenience of the public and so arrange matters that the train might leave Bankipore at 8 A.M., so as to arrive at Barh earlier in the day.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2754. A Jessore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appeals to the

A Sub-Post Office for Panjia,
Jessore.

Postmaster-General, Bengal, to consider favourably the petition of the inhabitants of Panjia and surrounding villages, praying for the establishment of Sub-Post Office at Panjia. The office is badly needed, and the Postal Superintendent of the Nadia Division has supported the petition.

(h)—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Dec. 1901.

2755. In view of the fact that the proposed transfer of the Govindpur subdivision to Burdwan will not remedy the inconvenience complained of by the Mining Association, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* would suggest instead

The transfer of the Govindpur
subdivision.

the transfer of the Raniganj subdivision and thana Gangajhalghati, of the Bankura district, to Manbhum, as the best means of bringing a very large coal area under one jurisdiction. It repeats the suggestion that the subdivisional head-quarters should be transferred from Govindpur to some convenient point on the railway line, say Dhanbaid, and goes on to point out the anomaly in the laws prevailing in Govindpur being introduced in the district of Burdwan, where another set of laws exists.

2756. The *Bengalee* quotes parts of the speech of Sir John Woodburn in the Viceregal Council on the 22nd March 1901,

BENGALIEE,
12th Dec. 1901.

The transfer to the Govindpur subdivision.

on the occasion of the debate of the Indian Mines Bill, in which His Honour remarked that the coal field of Jherria was spread over portions of three districts and indeed of three Commissionerships. The journal shows that barring five or six square miles, which abut on Hazaribagh, Jherria lies within the Govindpur subdivision of the Manbhum district, and therefore, strictly speaking, was spread over two districts and one Commissionership, viz., that of the Chota Nagpur Division. The Indian Mining Association, which inspired His Honour with the inaccurate and misleading information which entirely vitiates the decision His Honour then arrived at to transfer the jurisdiction to Burdwan, has not acquired any coal lands within the aforesaid five at six square miles, and if they intend doing so, this small portion can be transferred to the Govindpur subdivision without any appreciable disturbance of boundaries. It will then be seen, says the *Bengalee*, that the whole foundation of the case for the transfer absolutely falls to the ground, and that the Government, after having made up its mind, called for the expression of opinion of the responsible head and of the district and division, and the only reason that is vouchsafed for this extraordinary step is that it would go a long way towards meeting the wishes of the Mining Association.

2757. The *Indian Mirror* ventilates the grievances of Sib Narayan Banerji, late a despatcher in the Legislative Department

INDIAN MIRROR,
7th Dec. 1901.

The case of Sib Narayan Banerji of the Legislative Department.

of the Government of Bengal, who, after his confirmation in his new appointment by the Officiating Assistant Secretary, was unceremoniously dismissed by the permanent Assistant Secretary on the latter's return from leave.

Lord Curzon is appealed to to order a sifting enquiry and call for all the papers in the case, and right the wrong that has been done Sib Narayan.

2758. The *Bengalee* hopes that Lord Northcote, in his forthcoming tour

BENGALIEE,
8th Dec. 1901.

Lord Northcote's Kathiawar tour.

in Kathiawar, will take the opportunity of pressing on the attention of the States the necessity for timely preparation in the event of distress; and in view of the gloomy agricultural outlook in the Peninsula, such a warning would hardly be out of place or uncalled for.

As regards the other problem, viz., the control of the customs dues on articles imported into the ports of the States and then sent by rail to British territory, which His Excellency will be called upon to solve, the *Bengalee* advises His Excellency to do nothing which would abolish the privileges of the States or interfere with their valued rights.

2759. *Power and Guardian* is of opinion that the entire Press and all public bodies should protest against the practice of

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
8th Dec. 1901.

The Superintendent of the Garo Hills.

vesting the Superintendent of the Garo Hills with the second-class power of a munsif, and permitting him to administer both Civil and Criminal law to the serious detriment of the people of that benighted district.

An example of the abuse of this power and authority is found in a case where a man was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 for not renewing his gun license in due time. Precedents show that Deputy Commissioners used to let off such offenders with a fine of Rs. 2 only.

2760. Continuing its articles on the injustice of excluding Indians from the Public Service, *Power and Guardian* turns to the

Indians in the Survey of India Department.

Survey of India Department and laments the fact that the recommendations of the Public Service Commission have been disregarded in this Department also.

Against the opinion that natives cannot be trusted with expenditure of money, and on that account are considered unfit for service in the higher grades of the Survey of India Department, the journal holds that this reason is untenable, and points to the fact that Native District and Executive Engineers with greater authority over expenditure than any officer of the Survey Department, and Native Divisional Commissioners, Commissioners of Excise, Inspectors-General of Registration, who possess greater patronage, have always given satisfaction in the discharge of their more onerous and responsible executive duties.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
8th Dec. 1901.

Power and Guardian appeals to Lord Curzon to remedy the existing evil.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
10th Dec. 1901.

2761. The *Hindoo Patriot* questions the principle adopted by the Government in the matter of official residences and the grant of house allowances to officials, urging the

introduction of uniformity. It thinks that with the exception of the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Commander-in-Chief, the Lord Bishop, the Mint Master, and the Commissioner of Police, the concession of providing official residences should be withdrawn, but if it is permitted to others, it ought to be extended the Chief Justice of Bengal, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the Collector of Customs, and the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

If on financial grounds this is not possible, the same grounds should be applied in withdrawing the concession where it is at present allowed. The Principal of the Medical College and the Post Master of Calcutta, for instance, could well reside outside their places of business.

With regard to the mufassal, it is inexplicable why the executive head should enjoy greater privileges than the Judicial Chief. The latter has no official residence, nor does the subdivisional head of the judiciary receive any house rent.

It is hoped that Lord Curzon will give his attention to the matter.

BEHAR HERALD,
11th Dec. 1901.

2762. Continuing its notice of the case of the Sikdars *vs.* the Ghatwal

An appeal on behalf the Sonthal Parganas.

Kunj Behari Singh, of Simra, which resulted in the Sikdars being dispossessed of certain lands under the order of the Commissioner of the Sonthal

Parganas, the *Behar Herald*, though agreeing that the Sonthal Parganas do not provide for an appeal or revision to the Bengal Government in a case like the present in which the Commissioner's verdict is final, asks if the Government is bound hand and foot to sleep over a verdict, if it is even a flagrant violation of the law, and do nothing to prevent a repetition of the same or similar errors? The *Herald* asks the Government to express its opinion in this case, and if in its opinion the law on the subject is faulty, to take the earliest opportunity to set it aside or modify it.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2763. Commenting on the protest raised by the *Englishman* against the

The Lyall case and the European community.

introduction into the criminal law of the country of certain provisions from which both Europeans and Indians suffer, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

remarks that it is the utter selfishness and culpable negligence of the Anglo-Indian and European community that has led to the deprivation of many valuable rights and privileges possessed in common by Indian and European residents of this country.

It has been proved that the perversity of European juries often gives a hold to the High Court to meddle with verdicts, and instead of finding fault with the High Court or the Magistrate of Nowgong, the Anglo-Indian papers should appeal to the good sense of their countrymen not to abuse their position as jurymen.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BENGALUR,
7th Dec. 1901.

2764. In reproducing a letter addressed by Dewan Bahadur Raghunath

The Madras Court of Wards Bill.

Rao to a Madras contemporary, drawing attention to some of the most objectionable features of the Madras Court of Wards Bill, the *Bengalee* remarks

that Government has apparently not been very happy in the choice of remedies.

The amount of opposition the Bill has evoked would in any European country have led to its being withdrawn. Evils in this connection certainly exist, but care should be taken that the remedy proposed does not prove worse than the disease.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BENGALUR,
10th Dec. 1901.

2765. The *Bengalee* complains that the policy of the Government is

Indian Princes.

responsible for bringing into existence that unwholesome exotic, the Anglicised, denationalised

Indian Prince. The descendants of a hundred heroes prefers to masquerade in European dress, is addicted to European food and drink, is partial to European amusements and extravagance, and permits himself to be preyed

upon by a host of European parasites, but in all this, the *Bengalee* insinuates, he is just what his guardians, the Government and the European tutor whom the Government has forced upon him, have made him. Against this denationalisation and demoralisation the *Bengalee* is glad to find the *Saturday Review* raise its voice, and it points out that as a preventive of the disease the prohibition of the employment of European tutors to Native Princes is necessary, and not the restriction placed on the foreign travels of Native Princes, which is but a curative process.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2766. The *Behar News* does not agree with the report circulated that there is no present reason to fear anything in the nature of famine in Behar, and recommends the authorities not to accept the views of the planters wholly and solely, but to look into the matter themselves.

BEHAR NEWS,
7th Dec. 1901.

2767. The Chapra correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recommends the Lieutenant-Governor not to accept the conclusions of Mr. Bourdillon that there is no need for undertaking relief measures in Behar at present. Mr. Bourdillon, he says, visited the Sonapur Fair and "held a *mela* of European officials and planters" and formed his conclusions without conferring with the representatives of the Indian people, whom alone the famine directly affects. The officials of Chapra and even the Commissioner of Patna, previous to the visit of Mr. Bourdillon, were of opinion that relief operations were necessary. The correspondent does not know what led them to alter their opinion so soon. He asks the Government to boldly face the distress that is undoubtedly afflicting the labourers and the peasants.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2768. The recent cyclone, says the *Indian Mirror*, has darkened the agricultural prospects in Bengal, and a full crop is expected only in eight districts out of the forty-five. In Behar a worse state of things is anticipated owing to the failure of the June and October rains.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

At this awkward time, when distress seems close at hand, and apprehensions are entertained of plague assuming more serious proportions this season in Bengal, rumour hints at Sir John Woodburn's retirement from the service. Any change of Government, in the opinion of the *Mirror*, is most undesirable, and Sir John's presence is urgently needed in the Province, for he has successfully coped with similar difficulties before, and knows well how to feel the pulse of his people.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2769. While pleased to see Lord Curzon exchanging friendly greeting with the Buddhist monks in Burma, the *Indian Mirror* would have been more glad if His Excellency had seen his way to acceding to their prayer for a rest-house for Buddhists in Calcutta.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Dec 1901.

The advisability of conciliating that community is pointed out in the following words:—

"It would be a wise policy on the part of the British Government to show its sympathy with the Buddhist community. Anybody watching current affairs must have noticed that Russia has gained considerable influence over the Buddhists in Asia. The Czar, having set up his authority as the protector of Buddhist faith in his territories, has drawn towards him the sympathy of the vast mass of the Buddhist population in Tibet and in China. This is how Tibet has been seeking the friendship of the White Czar. It is also strange that Japan at this time should exchange friendly greetings with Russia. So it would seem that Russia is bent upon making friends with Tibet, China and Japan, three great Buddhist countries, for some ulterior purpose. Great Britain cannot very well afford to allow these countries to fall under Russian influence. We should therefore very much like to see the Government of India affording reasonable facilities to the Buddhists to visit their holy places

in India. Great Britain possesses considerable advantage over Russia in winning over the Buddhists, for so long as India is regarded as their sacred land, it is possible for Great Britain, by means of a conciliatory policy, to maintain her hold upon the whole Buddhist population in Asia. It is not much to build a few rest-houses for Buddhist pilgrims in India, but such an act may prove a great diplomatic achievement hereafter."

INDIAN MIRROR,
7th Dec. 1901.

2770. After a few prefatory remarks on the growth of power among the Europeans in India and the monopoly they hold of the trade and industries and the loaves and fishes of the country, leaving the Indians to starve in the midst of plenty or satisfy themselves with the crumbs and dry bones that fall from their masters' table, the *Indian Mirror* recommends the middle class to emigrate to Northern Australia and East Africa, which are countries which will just fit in with their requirements. Emigration offers the only solution to the bread problem in this country, and the hope is held out that in the fulness of time, Indian emigrants will return home with big piles.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 14th December 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.